

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00616 181305Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CU-02
DHA-02 HEW-04 L-03 /034 W
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R 181120Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2617
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0616

FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SHUM, QA, US
SUBJECT: COUNTER BOYCOTT AND ANTI-SEMITISM VERSUS ARABS

1. IN SEEKING TO HELP GOVT OF QATAR'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH
TO REORGANIZE ITS HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH AID'S OFFICE OF COUNTRY
FINANCED SERVICES, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT HARVARD
AND JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITIES HAVE DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO ENGAGE
IN SUCH PROGRAMS ON A DIRECT BASIS WITH ARAB NATIONS BECAUSE OF
SENSITIVITY TO BOYCOTT-RELATED ISSUES (REF STATE 111948 NOTAL).
IN ADDITION, WE HAVE HAD RECENT REPORT OF FOUR US FIRMS WHO
HAVE DECIDED TO CUT THEIR BUSINESS TIES HERE BECAUSE OF INCORRECT
ASSUMPTIONS RE BOYCOTT REGULATIONS (DOHA 562 NOTAL).

2. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED INFORMALLY OF DECISION BY MAJOR US STATE
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UNIVERSITY TO DECLINE VERY ATTRACTIVE OFFER FROM GOVT IN GULF
AREA TO EDUCATE 100 STUDENTS IN VARIOUS SCIENCE FIELDS. ACCOR-
DING OUR INFORMATION, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT HAD RULED THIS OUT
SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE HE WAS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT REACTION OF LOCAL
JEWISH COMMUNITY TO HAVING SO MANY ARABS AROUND.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT FUROR AND PUBLICITY ABOUT BOYCOTT DURING

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS USG FORMULATING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION HAS PRODUCED REACTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. SOME ARE BASED ON IGNORANCE, WHILE OTHERS ON NATURAL DESIRE NOT RPT NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN STICKY ISSUE. ALL MAY BE DESCRIBED AS "REVERSE BOYCOTTING", AND UNIVERSITY ACTION APPEARS TO BE STRAIGHT CASE OF DISCRIMINATION (ANTI-SEMITISM DIRECTED AGAINST ARABS, IF YOU WILL).

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF OTHER ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE OF SIMILIAR CASES. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IF ANYTHING DEPT CAN DO ABOUT SUCH CASES, BUT AT MINIMUM A LITTLE EDUCATION SEEMS CALLED FOR. IN ANY EVENT, EXAMPLES CITED ABOVE ARE INDICATIVE OF WIDE RAMIFICATIONS OF BOYCOTT PROBLEM, AND HOW ITS IMPACT CAN RESTRICT AND INHIBIT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA.
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Message Attributes

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